



Rep. Jeff Morris

Reports to the 40th District

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**Promise
Scholarships
Help Middle-Class
Students Achieve
the American
Dream**



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With the leadership of Governor Gary Locke, the Legislature kept its promise to Washington's families last session, and now some of our brightest students are receiving a better chance at a better future.

2,300 members of the Class of 1999 have received the first Promise Scholarships— two-year grants of \$1,125 per year. These scholarships were awarded to the top 10 percent of last spring's graduating high school seniors, most of whom come from middle class backgrounds.

That's the most exciting thing about the Promise Scholarships. The scholarship targets middle-class students because low-income families can usually qualify for a wider variety of financial aid, while higher-income families can typically afford college tuition without debt. Too often it's the students from middle-class families who struggle to pay for access to higher education.

When the 20th century began, an eighth grade education was often generally viewed as "enough" to get people started in the world. But as we prepare to enter the 21st century, we know that a high-school education is not nearly enough for the high-tech world we've developed. At least two years of college or technical training is required to land a good job in the "new economy."

The Promise Scholarships are a needed ingredient in meeting these new educational challenges, and I am proud that we have made this vital program available.

Applications for the 2000 Promise Scholarships will be available in January. Contact the guidance counselor at your local high school for more information, or check the Superintendent of Public Instruction's web site at <http://www.k12.wa.us/>

Our best and brightest will now will have the opportunity they deserve in Washington State.